

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 653

By Kane

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Gary Lee Barker of Kingston Springs.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Gary Lee "GB" Barker; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Barker was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born in Oxford, England on August 22, 1961, Mr. Barker received his bachelor's degree from Louisiana Tech University before going on to complete a Master's Degree in Anthropology from the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Barker served with acumen and alacrity as an archaeologist for the Tennessee Department of Transportation Environmental Division for 27 years, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, during his career, Mr. Barker worked on a variety of archaeological sites, including Brick Church Mounds, West Tennessee Civil War Thematic Survey, Middle Tennessee Veterans Cemetery Project, Fort Blount Project, Clover Bottom Mansion Project, and George Dickel Distillery Mapping Project, and he participated in assessments of Brush Creek and various sites along the Cumberland River in Cheatham County, as well as numerous other contributions; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Barker championed the discovery and preservation of Kellytown, a site discovered and named by Mr. Barker; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Barker was a published author, appearing in a variety of publications regarding archaeology as well as other endeavors; and

WHEREAS, in his private life, Mr. Barker was dedicated to the betterment of his community, and he spent time mentoring local youth; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Barker was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Barker enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Donna McLain Barker, and was the proud parent of Ashley Barker and Gary "Austin" Barker; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Barker is also survived by his father, Harold "Ben" Barker (Wanda Vaughn), and his mother, Patricia Wells, as well as his siblings: Stephen Barker, Richard Barker, and Marianne Barker; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Barker will be sorely missed by his beloved friends, family, loved ones, and the community as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Gary Lee Barker leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Gary Lee Barker, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Barker.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.